Srinagar road got blocked and the tourists had to depend exclusively on air travel but they could not perform the journey due to non-availability of seats in spite of additional services introduced by Indian Airlines during this period thus deeply affecting the Tourist Industry in Kashmir;

(c) whether the difficulties as mentioned in (a) above are due to shortage of aircraft and what steps have been taken by Government to augment the air fleet in the Indian Airlines; and

(d) what permanent solution Government have in view to ameliorate the difficulties of intending tourist to Kashmir in view of the undependable nature of the Jammu/Srinagar road and also due to perennial problem of non-availability of seats in this sector for a considerable period during a year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) There is no lack of seats in aircraft on Delhi/Srinagar and Jammu/Srinagar sector.

(b) Besides scheduled services, Indian Airlines also operated a number of additional services to meet the traffic demand to the extent possible.

(c) and (d) 19 Airbus A 320 aircraft ordered by Indian Airlines would be delivered during 1989-90. With the induction of these aircraft, Indian Airlines would be catering to the traffic demand in a more satisfactory manner between Delhi-Srinagar and Jammu-Srinagar. However, Indian Airlines operates additional flights subject to the availability of suitable aircraft to meet the increased tourist demand as and when required. Besides, charter flights are also allowed for group tourists.

Status of Hotel Management and Catering Technology-Diploma

650. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Institutes of Hotel Management and Catering Technology in the country are placed on equal status in regard to courses of study and award of Diplomas;

(b) whether the strength of the teaching staff, their recruitment, salaries and emoluments and service regulations are equal and comparable to that of first grade colleges under the University Grants Commission;

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to chart out a comparative service regulations, pay scales and emoluments for the staff of the institutions, keeping in view the scales of the University Grants Commission; and

(d) if not, what other steps Government are going to take to remove the present stagnation of the existing appointees, when compared to the service conditions available in Hotel Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir. The service conditions and salary structure of staff in uniform for all these technical institutes and is based on the nature of work and the recommendations of the Central Pay Commissions.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Working conditions and the nature of work in the Institutes are quite different from that of the Hotel Industry. With the implementation of the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission for the employees of the Institutes there is no question of any stagnation at present.

Representation against changing the time of Mahalakshmi Express from Miraj to Bombay

651. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations against changing the time of Mahalakshmi Express from Miraj to Bombay; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to continue the status quo

and to satisfy the travelling public, likely to be put to inconvenience by the proposed schedule.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The timings of 203204 Metre Gauge Mahalaxmi Express have been suitably adjusted to connect 311/312 Broad Gauge Express at Miraj, arriving Bombay at 8.20 A.M. and leaving Bombay at 8.25 P.M.

Request of Tamil Militants to announce ceasefire in Sri Lanka

652. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN *REDDY*:

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that TLEF (Tamil Liberation Eelam Front) had requested Government to announce an indefinite ceasefire and to invite the LTTE and other political forces to the negotiation table and initiate the process for a lasting solution to end the ethnic conflict; if so, what is the response of Government to this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Government have seen the appeal by the TLEF. Government have repeatedly invited the LTTE to give up violence, lay down arms and join the democratic political process. Government have announced a unilateral ceasefire on two separate occasions. Despite all these efforts, the LTTE has not responded constructively.

Scholarships awarded by UGC

653. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Number of scholarships for post graduate research students awarded by UGC through national test;

(b) what is the percentage of scholarships given to JNU and DU;

(c) what is the break-up, university-wise, and the total number of universities in the Country; and

(d) what is the amount of scholarship and whether its utility is assessed periodically?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The UGC has instituted a Scheme for the award of Junior/Senior Research Fellowships in Science and Humanities, including Social Sciences for pursuing M. Phil/ Ph.D. programmes. The total number of fellowships under this scheme is 3595, which are allocated among different Universities. One of the conditions for the award of these fellowships is that a candidate should have qualified in the national test conducted by the UGC.

(b) and (c) The total number of fellowships is allocated among 90 universities and 10 institutions deemed to be universities. A statement showing the university-wise allocation of these awards is attached. [*See* Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No. 31]. The allocation to Delhi University works out to 3 27 per cent. The UGC has not made any separate allocation of fellowships from this Scheme to JNU. All the fellowships awarded by the JNU are integrated with its maintenance grants provided by the UGC. The total number of fellowships awarded by the JNU is about 370.

(d) From 1-4-1987 the value of these awards is Rs. 1800/- p.m. in the first two years and Rs. 2100/- p.m. in the subsequent two years. The scheme is intended to attract talented students to research programmes. The progress of work of individual research scholars is monitored and reviewed at different levels. The scheme itself is also reviewed by the UGC from time time.

De-recognition of Travel Agencies

654. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that travel agencies dealing in passport matters have been de-recognised on a large scale; if so,